Textimonies: Early Etchings and Stencils by Glenn Ligon

January 23 – February 27, 2011

In Celebration of Black History Month

Opening Events

Wednesday, February 2

1 p.m.—Introduction to Textimonies by Curator Kimberly Rae Connor, Ph.D., USF
Donohue Rare Book Room, Gleeson Library

3:30–5 p.m.—Opening Reception with DJ
Thacher Gallery, Gleeson Library

5 p.m.—Lecture on slave narratives by Ethel Morgan Smith, West Virginia University
Maier Room, Fromm Hall

About the Exhibition

Textimonies presents quintessential prints by African American artist Glenn Ligon (1960–) that unite the visual and literary to explore identity. Drawing primarily from his 1994 installation, “To Disembark” at the Hirshhorn Gallery in Washington D.C., the works on display here include nine slave narrative etchings and four stencils from the early 1990’s, studies for Ligon’s 1996 “New Work” exhibition at SFMOMA and ten semi-autobiographical fabricated runaway slave ads. The works featured in Textimonies examine the ways in which historical testimony—here, slave narrative, Harlem Renaissance classics, runaway slave posters, and civil rights photographic documentation—often become the basis for how we identify ourselves and others, especially in terms of race, gender and sexuality. While firmly rooted in historical African American experience, Ligon’s focus on identity as a social construction asks universal questions that apply to all of us. His works include a keen sense of humor, self-awareness and social irony.

Additional USF Events in Celebration of Black History Month

Thursday, February 3

6 p.m.—Film Screening of Amistad, McLaren 250

Thursday, February 10

11:45–12:45 p.m.—History Relived: Slave Auction Reenactment, Harney Plaza

Friday, February 11

4–5:30 p.m.—Lecture on “Black Aesthetics” by philosopher Paul Taylor, Penn State Lone Mountain 100, Refreshments will be served

Sponsored by USF’s Departments of Philosophy and African American Studies with generous support of the Fleishhacker Fund

Thursday, February 17

1 p.m.—Introduction to Textimonies by Curator Kimberly Rae Connor, Ph.D., USF
UC 222

Thursday, February 24

Time TBD—Empowering Youth, Creating Change: An Evening with Bobby Seale
McLaren Complex

The exhibit was made possible through generous loans by Regen Projects, Los Angeles, and San Francisco’s GLBT Historical Society, and Kimberly Rae Connor with cosponsorship for events from USF’s Black Student Union, Department of African American Studies, Department of Art + Architecture, Department of Philosophy, Ethnic Studies Program, Gleeson Library | Geschke Center, and the School of Business and Professional Studies.